

sound-money Democrats. Such language as the Sentinel has been using in alluding to them must be avoided. Where Populist candidates have been nominated for Congress, it is probable that the Palmer Democrats will name candidates of their own.

A MISCHIEVOUS DEMAGOGUE.

A favorite argument of Mr. Bryan, if it can be called an argument, and one which he has repeated a great many times, is to remind his hearers that the common people, as he calls them, are a great majority in this country; that upon them devolves the duty of settling all questions of public policy; that they know what they want and are entirely competent to settle the money question; that there is nothing difficult or complicated about it, anyhow, etc. "The Creator," he says, "did not use a different kind of mud in making financiers from that used in making other people." "Show me a man who says the money question is too complicated for common people and I will show you one who thinks it is just about as complicated for him." This kind of talk, like much of what Mr. Bryan says, comes under the definition of "jollyng."

It is intended to flatter the people, and, by putting them in a good humor with themselves, make them well disposed also towards him.

The fact that there is a modicum of truth in this often-repeated talk of Mr. Bryan's makes it the more misleading. It is quite true that this is the people's government, and we are all glad it is so. It is quite true that in the last resort all questions of public policy must be settled by them. It is quite true that financiers are not by nature any different from other people nor better in any way unless they have made a better use of their talents and opportunities.

But does not follow that the money question is as simple as Mr. Bryan would have his audiences believe, or that it should be passed upon without very careful consideration of the laws and principles of finance, of historical precedents and of the testimony of those who have made a study of such questions. Mr. Bryan is a lawyer by profession, though he has never practiced much, and said a short time ago that his income from that source was very limited. Suppose some important question of constitutional law or statutory construction involving vast interests and historical precedents, and the experience of other countries were thrown into politics to be settled by popular vote. What would Mr. Bryan think if some candidate for office who knew nothing of law should go about telling the people that they were entirely competent to decide such questions; that the Creator did not use any different kind of mud in making lawyers from that which went to the making of other people; that whoever told them questions of constitutional law or statutory construction were complicated had no faith in popular government and was trying to deceive and defraud them? Is there more of this of being a superior person. Mr. Bryan is not an expert lawyer, but does he believe that the average citizen who has never read law at all knows as much about the rule in Shelley's case, the law of contracts or the construction of wills as he does and is competent to pass on those questions offhand? He may have tried a hog case or a cow case before a jury and may be familiar with the rule of law which requires juries to take the law from the legal expert who sits on the bench. He may also be aware that juries are often led, in criminal cases, by the testimony of the medical and other experts who are supposed to know more about technical questions than they do.

In spite of what Mr. Bryan says, the money question is a complicated one—extremely delicate in its adjustments and complicated in its relations. It ought not to be in politics at all, but, being there and being subject to popular vote, the people should not be told that it is a simple question and one they are competent to decide offhand. They should be told that the literature of the question is very extensive, and that it involves the interests of all classes and of all nations, and that they ought, if possible, to study this literature or at least ascertain the opinions and conclusions of those who have made a study of it. They should be told that some of the fundamental principles of monetary science are established axioms, to disregard which would be suicidal folly, and that they ought to find out what these axioms are and follow them. Instead of this, Mr. Bryan tries to make his audiences believe there is no literature involved in the money question, nothing that is more difficult to be learned from the experience of other nations, and, above all, nothing to be learned from trained financiers or writers on economics. He is a very mischievous demagogue.

OVERDOING A THING.

A week ago the Cincinnati Enquirer published, under six headlines, the story of one Frank Field, of that city, who claims to have recently returned from Nicaragua to have recently returned from Nicaragua to have recently returned from Nicaragua.

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